

Mark Drakeford AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-532
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/01261/14

William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee

Stephen.George@wales.gov.uk

Dear William

7 April 2014

Thank you for your letter of 17 March on behalf of the Petitions Committee seeking my views on the petition you have received from the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign.

We recognise it is important that people who have a neurological condition, such as Muscular Dystrophy, receive the right care and treatment at the right time and in the right setting. There has been substantial progress made in the last few years in taking forward the recommendations of the Thomas Report to improve neuromuscular services across Wales, such as the appointment of key workers and specialist physiotherapists.

At a meeting with the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign to discuss the Welsh Neuromuscular Network Vision Document, I highlighted the significant challenges facing the NHS in Wales and that these challenges would continue for some time to come. While I fully support the work of the Network and their ambitions, as I explained during the meeting any developments in services will have to come about from new ways of working, as it is unlikely any additional financial resource will be available.

It is, therefore, appropriate that you are seeking the views of Local Health Boards on the petition.

I understand that patients with a long term neurological conditions such as muscular dystrophy need access to complex and well co-ordinated services. This is why we held a consultation on a draft Neurological Conditions Delivery Plan, which closed on 31 January 2014.

*Best wishes
Mark.*

Mark Drakeford AC / AM
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Minister for Health and Social Services

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence.Mark.Drakeford@wales.gsi.gov.uk

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